

RI DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Herp Observer

Become a citizen scientist and help RI's reptiles and amphibians!

Rhode Island DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife is excited to announce the release of **Herp Observer** – an app for your smartphone or PC that allows members of the public to easily submit their observations of amphibians and reptiles (aka “herps”) directly to our secure databases.

Many of the reptile and amphibian species in RI need our help. Observations submitted through Herp Observer give us a better understanding of where species can be found in RI.

This information is essential for effective conservation and management of these secretive animals. You don't have to find a rare species to participate. ALL observations are welcome!

On behalf of the slimy, scaly, slow-moving, and shy critters of Rhode Island, thanks for being a Herp Observer!



Spring peeper (Christopher Raithe)



Eastern box turtle (Gabrielle DeMeillon)



Marbled salamander (Christopher Raithe)



Garter snake (Christopher Raithe)

Questions about Herp Observer?

Contact Scott Buchanan | State Herpetologist
scott.buchanan@dem.ri.gov



HOW TO USE Herp Observer

FIRST you will have to download the app Survey123 on your smartphone:

1. Download "Survey123 for ArcGIS" from the app store. It's free.
2. Navigate to the following URL from your smartphone: <https://arcg.is/05X8Pr>
3. You will have the option to open the app in a browser or the app ... select the app.
4. You will be prompted to open this page in Survey123 ... select Open.
5. The app will automatically download the latest version of Herp Observer and you're all set. When you reopen Survey123, Herp Observer will appear in "My Surveys."
6. If done in this order, there's no need to enter a username and password!
7. Click on the Herp Observer 2.0 icon within Survey123 and you're all set to begin entering data!

To use Herp Observer in a browser on your PC:

1. Navigate to the following URL from your PC:
<https://arcg.is/05X8Pr>
2. You will have the option to open the app in a browser or the app ... select browser.
3. The Herp Observer survey will open in your default browser and you're all set to begin entering data!

To enter data into Herp Observer, please follow the instructions on the next page.



Bullfrog (Paul Topham)



Northern diamondback terrapin (Gabrielle DeMeillon)



Eastern red-spotted newt (Christopher Railhel)



Eastern hognose snake (Mike Stultz)

Did you know?

Rhode Island is home to over 40 species of reptiles and amphibians.



READY...SET...OBSERVE!

How to Submit Data

Step 1: Enter your name and email address so that we may contact you if needed.

wildswamp Sign Out

Herp Observer 2.0

Survey Description

Thank you for using the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife amphibian and reptile incidental observation database! We appreciate your help in improving our understanding of where species occur throughout the state. We welcome all observations of species rare and common.

Please always respect our native species and do not attempt to handle them or remove them from their environment. The locations of certain species can be very sensitive information - the data you provide will not be made publicly available.

Happy Herping!

Observer Information

Observer Last Name*

Observer First Name*

Observer Email Address*

Helps if we have any questions about your entry.

Step 2: Scroll down to the Location section. If you are using your smartphone with location services turned on, the app should default to your current location. If not, or if entering on a PC, use the map portal to navigate to the location of your observation. If you have exact coordinates, you can enter those instead. There is no need to enter coordinates if the map is showing the location of the observation.

Location*

Your phone should be able to locate you automatically. If not, you can find your location on the map OR enter the coordinates below.

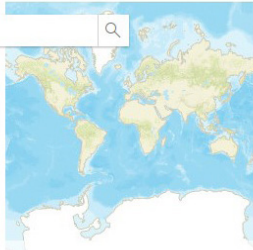
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Esri, Garmin, NGA, USGS Powered by Esri

📍 No geometry captured yet.

Longitude - Decimal Degrees

Negative Value
-71.xxxxx

Latitude - Decimal Degrees

Positive Value
41.xxxxx



Spring salamander and Northern ring-necked snake (Christopher Raithe)

Did you know?

There are 8 salamander and 10 frog and toad species in Rhode Island.



READY...SET...OBSERVE!

How to Submit Data

Step 3: Scroll down to the Species Observed section. Select the type of species from the dropdown menu (Frog, Salamander, Snake, or Turtle). A new dropdown menu will appear – select the species observed. You will have an option for each native species found in Rhode Island. If you are unsure of the species or think that you have observed something different, select other.

Species Observed

Species Type*

First select a taxonomic group, then the species from the dropdown menu. If it's something strange, select other and send us a picture.

Frog

Frog

-Please Select-

American Toad

Bullfrog

Fowler's Toad

Gray Treefrog

m/d/yy

Step 4: Scroll down. Enter the date and time that the observation took place.

Date and Time

Date of Observation*

When did you observe the specimen in the field?

m/d/yy

Time of Observation*

hh:mm

You're almost done!
We just need a couple more things.



Painted turtle (Mary Gannon)



Northern leopard frog (Christopher Raithe)



Red-bellied snake (Christopher Raithe)



Eastern spadefoot toad (Jay Osenkowski)

Did you know?

There are 7 native and 1 non-native turtle species in Rhode Island. there are also 4 sea turtle species found seasonally off the coast of RI.



READY...SET...OBSERVE!

How to Submit Data

Step 5: Scroll down to Observation Details. Enter whether your observation was visual or audio (if you heard frogs calling) from the dropdown menu. Enter whether the animal you observed was alive, dead, or dead on the road. Make an estimate of the number of individual animals observed. Attach a photo of the animal observed. A photo is required and will be used to verify all observations. Audio and video files are not available for upload at this time. If your observation was audible only, please submit a photo of the habitat where the animal was heard.

Observation Details

Method of Observation*

Did you see or hear the animal(s)?

-Please Select-

Condition of Specimen*

-Please Select-

Number of Individuals*

Did you see a single individual or multiple individuals? If you saw many individuals an estimate is OK.

123

Photo*

Please provide a photo to verify your observation. Audio and video files are not available for upload at this time. If your observation was audible only, please submit a photo of the habitat where the animal was.

Press here to choose image file. (<10MB)



Step 6: Scroll down to bottom of page. Enter any comments that might be helpful. Click the "Submit" button if using a PC. Click the checkmark on the bottom right if using your smartphone. Your observation will be automatically uploaded to our secure database. You're all set!

Comments

254

Submit

Thanks for being a Herp Observer!



Gray tree frog (Jay Osenkowski)



Smooth green snake (Christopher Railthel)

Did you know?

There are 12 snake species Rhode Island.



DEM
RHODE ISLAND

